

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11 to read as follows:

Each proximal end 16, 18 is fixedly secured to a rigid member 36, which is fixedly supported behind an instrument panel 38 or knee bolster 38 in the vehicle. More specifically, a flange 40, 42 is formed at each proximal end 16, 18 that allows the pair of brackets 12, 14 to be secured to the rigid member 36 by any conventional methods, such as welding, bolting, adhesives or the like. The pair of brackets 12, 14 extends generally radially outwardly in a V-shaped manner from the rigid member 36 toward the knee bolster 38. Each distal end 20, 22 is fixedly secured to the knee bolster 38. More specifically, an end wall 46, 48 defines each distal end 20, 22 and extends between the outer walls 24, 26, inner walls 28, 30 and the web 32, 34. An aperture 49, 50 is formed in each end wall 46, 48 to receive a bolt or other similar fastener. Preferably, the distal ends 20, 22 of the pair of brackets 12, 14 are fixedly secured to a common plate 51. The plate 51, in turn, is fixedly secured to the knee bolster 38 by any suitable methods, such as by adhesives or molded in-place during formation of the knee bolster 38.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 14 to read as follows:

Figure 2 is a ~~cross-sectional~~ side elevational view of the occupant restraint mechanism; and

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 13 to read as follows:

Similarly, a cutout 55, 56 is formed along an ~~open~~ opened edge of each of the outer 26 and inner 30 walls of the other of the pair of brackets, now referred to as an upper bracket 14. Each cutout 55, 56 is generally U-shaped defining a length L. The length L is the length of the bottom of each cutout 55, 56. Each cutout 55, 56 extends in a concave manner toward the web 34 defining wall depths D_1 and D_2 . The wall depth D_1 is the distance between the bottom of the cutout 55, 56 and the web 34. The wall depth D_2 is the ~~distance~~ distance between the open edges of the outer 26 and inner walls 30 and the bottom of the respective cutouts 55, 56.